

Early American Life at Rose Hill

Life of Slaves in the Federal Era

John Grahame & Ann Grahame (Ann daughter of Governor Thomas Johnson) built the brick Manor House in the 1790s. Ann was actually landowner of Rose Hill, she was given the land in 1788 by her father as a wedding present.

- The Grahames were wealthy and considered privileged. Like most other wealthy families they owned slaves were delegated the responsibility of most daily household tasks.
- Slavery was not uncommon for a home the size of Rose Hill.
- Frederick County borders Pennsylvania and freedom to the north. The time period that the Grahame family lived at Rose Hill followed the Revolutionary War, a time when many slaves ran away, and the War of 1812, another period of War when slaves found opportunities to run. It was not uncommon for slave owners including John Grahame to post ads for the return of runaway slaves.

The Federal Census records from 1790-1830 show that John Graham had a number of slaves, (male, female and children). They were responsible for a variety of activities from farming to caring for livestock, to cleaning and prepping the home for various activities such as parties

1790 Census

John Grahame is listed as owning 1 slave, and having 11 free persons living on property (these free persons were most likely hired hands or indentured servants helping with construction of the Manor house).

1810 Census

John Grahame is listed as owning 29 slaves

1820 Census

John Grahame is listed as owning 21 slaves

- 1 male under fourteen
- 4 males of fourteen and under twenty-six
- 3 males of twenty-six and under forty-five
- 5 males of forty-five and upward
- 2 females under fourteen
- 3 females of fourteen and under twenty-six
- 3 females of twenty-six and under forty-five

Listed under “All other persons except Indians not taxed” 34 (possibly Indentured Servants)

1833 Inventory of Estate after John Grahame's Death:

Lists the following mortgaged slaves-

- *Negro Peter aged about 65 years \$40.00*
- *Negro Woman Ann aged about 65 years \$30.00*
- *Negro Woman Polly aged about 21 years \$250.00*
- *Negro Woman Eliza aged about 40 years \$200.00*
- *Negro Man Charles aged about 20 years \$300.00*
- *Negro Man Bill aged about 45 years \$100.00*

Personal property of Major John Grahame to be sold

Rye in the straw; Rye in the bushel; Corn by the barrel; One field of Rye 42 acres; Two fields of Wheat 68 $\frac{3}{4}$ acres

- John Grahame was a farmer and businessman. He owned a number of slaves who worked the land. Field work usually involved clearing fields, growing and maintaining crops, managing livestock, mending fences, transporting goods and other very bone breaking tasks. The Grahames had livestock including chickens, sheep and cows all of which would have been tended by the slaves who were also responsible for all feeding, vetting, milking, mucking, and other care of the animals. The men responsible for these jobs included slaves Charles, Bill, Peter, James, John, Edward and Daniel. They made it possible for John to manage both his farm and other businesses.

- All kinds of tasks like emptying chamber pots, making beds, doing laundry, serving meals, delivering messages, managing fireplaces, managing lamps and candles, and cleaning and caring for young children would all have been part of the duties performed by the household slaves. Ann was one of the Grahame family's household slaves and most likely the family cook. She would have been responsible for preparing meals for the household as well as other duties around the house. Gardens were where most of the household foods and herbs were grown. Slaves would have tended and harvested this garden.
- It was not uncommon for slave owners to "hire out" their slaves for cash to earn more money. John Grahame and other slave owners who desired to do so placed advertisements "For Hire".
- Slaves at Rose Hill as on most plantations had their own quarters for which they were also responsible for cleaning and other upkeep.
- Slavery was officially abolished in the Maryland State Constitution in October 1864.